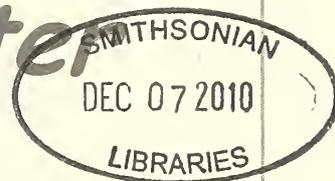


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CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 56

December 2010

Number 6



Register Now for the Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting on the Beautiful Outer Banks!

Skip Morgan & Jeff Lewis



The Carolina Bird Club winter meeting will be held in Kill Devil Hills/Nags Head on the North Carolina Outer Banks January 27-30, 2011. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 27th at the Ramada Plaza Nags Head Beach hotel. The CBC and the Outer Banks extend a warm welcome to members and guests to join us for a fun-filled weekend of birding!

The northeast coastline of North Carolina offers outstanding birding, and winter is probably the best season. In recent winters have seen Common Eider and Harlequin Duck. We should see the three North American scoter species and possibly Long-tailed Duck. We will search for a Ross's Goose among hundreds of Snow Geese. Eurasian Wigeons are winter regulars at Pea Island, and scattered Horned Grebes can be seen from the beach. With any luck, we could see Iceland or Glaucous Gull at Cape Point and possibly a Thayer's or California Gull. Interesting passerine observations have included species such as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Dickcissel.

The meeting plan calls for a variety of field trips, interesting speakers, and a new feature - the first ever CBC Birding Round Up contest. More on that later! There is a new field trip route that includes Audubon's Pine Island Refuge and points north. Also included are some suggestions for birding on the way to and from the coast.

Friday night's dinner is "on your own" with a new twist to the social hour. The North Banks Bird Club is sponsoring a "pack a snack" station during the social hour preceding

the program. You will be able to have a dessert for the evening and also prepare a snack bag to take with you on Saturday's trips. Following a welcome to the meeting, Sean Edward Gough, a former student at East Carolina University, will present a program on his research done in Eastern North Carolina that was supported by a grant from the Carolina Bird Club. His study is entitled "Investigating the Relationship between Habitat Disturbance and the Reproduction of American Bald Eagles in Eastern North Carolina", and the findings have implications for ensuring the future growth of Bald Eagle populations in this area.

On Saturday, the program features Mike Murray, National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent of the Outer Banks Group which includes Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial, and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. He will be presenting an update on the effects of the "consent decree" on the birds and turtles breeding on NPS seashore lands. Superintendent Murray and his staff have worked through the development of the Off-road Vehicle Management Plan that is currently under review in Washington, D.C. Mike's perspective on this controversial issue is unique, and we are fortunate to have him as our keynote speaker.

The Ramada Plaza Nags Head Beach will be CBC headquarters for the meeting. For you GPS users, the physical address for the hotel is 1701 South Virginia Dare Trail in Kill Devil Hills. If you "migrate" by the seat of your pants, turn east off the 158 by-pass when you get to "French-fry alley" (Neptune Drive) and go over to the beach road (route

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CBC Huntington Beach State Park Field Trip Report

September 11-12, 2010 *Paul Serridge*

Eleven CBC members and three guests (including two from Minnesota!) participated in an excellent weekend of birding. The weather was great on Saturday with highs in the low 80s, low humidity, and very little wind. Furthermore, the birds showed up!

We spent the morning around Mullet Pond that, as a result of a leak in one of the water level control gates, was at a very low level with extensive areas of exposed mud. As it was only a couple of hours before high tide, the mud held a variety of shorebirds, and the shallow water held the expected herons, egrets, and Wood Storks. A little excitement for both birders and shorebirds was generated at the causeway when first a Peregrine Falcon, and then a Merlin, swooped over the area. We also saw a soaring Northern Harrier.

On the causeway, local birder Ritch Lilly stopped to tell us that he had seen two Lark Sparrows from the observation deck at the south-east corner of Mullet Pond. The observation deck was our next stop and, not only did we find one of the Lark Sparrows, but we spotted a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, well camouflaged against the light brown exposed mud. A careful scan of the area produced five Buff-breasted! Also, three Roseate Spoonbills flew past practically at eye-level. An hour on the Atalaya carriageway was very productive: warblers, ducks, Glossy Ibis, and both Night-heron species. A Worm-eating Warbler, not currently on the park's checklist, was a particularly good sighting.

After a picnic lunch on the grass at the north parking lot, we walked north on the beach to the jetty. We stopped briefly at the pool just south of the jetty and found two Piping Plovers and several Semipalmated Plovers. The jetty itself was practically birdless, so we headed for the sandy point west of the bird nesting area. There we were able to observe at leisure a very large mixed flock of roosting terns, gulls, skimmers, oystercatchers, and a few shorebirds. Among the Black-bellied Plovers we found at least three American Golden-Plovers.

After our walk back, we checked out Sandpiper Pond where an Anhinga had been seen two days previously.

No Anhinga, but a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was added to our list. A stop at the Education Center yielded the expected Painted Buntings and a few other common birds at the feeders.

We made one last stop at the causeway hoping to see the Wilson's Phalarope last reported the previous afternoon. We did not find it, and our birding finished for the day around 4 p.m. The day's list stood at 90 species!

On Sunday morning, despite overnight storms, eight of us met between 7 and 8 a.m. on the causeway. We were able to observe three Roseate Spoonbills foraging very close to an observation deck. One of the Spoonbills walked out of the water with some kind of clam shell attached to a toe. Instead of trying to remove it with its bill, it simply walked around for a few minutes until the shell fell off. A walk on the road and carriageway around Mullet Pond added some common woodland birds to the trip list. Just as we arrived at the



Jon Rousse

end of the carriageway, the rain started. We were able to take shelter under the camping store until it stopped. We made another trip to the observation deck at the south-east corner of Mullet Pond, but did not find either the Lark Sparrow or Buff-breasted Sandpipers. We concluded the trip at the Education Center where a Tufted Titmouse was yet another lifer for one of the birders from Minnesota - a fitting way to finish what had been a very successful and enjoyable field trip.

The total trip list stood at a very satisfying 101 species (100 in the park itself and a Eurasian Collared-Dove seen in the parking lot of the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort where some of us had met to carpool on Saturday morning).



Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting



(continued from page 1)

12, near 9 ½ milepost) and look for the tallest hotel you see. This Ramada boasts lots of amenities including private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave, as well as a heated pool and Jacuzzi (just what you need in January!) The CBC rates for this meeting are \$75 per night for an ocean view room or \$55 per night for the street side. Please add 12.75% to the total for local taxes. When you call (800) 635-1824 or (252) 441-2151 to make your reservation, let them know you are with the CBC to receive the special rate. For more information on the hotel go to www.RamadaPlazaNagsHead.com. Please register by January 1 to make sure you receive the special rates and your room type preference.

The hotel restaurant is called *Peppercorns* and is located on the second/third floor. They plan to open early for breakfast on Friday and Saturday. The CBC will hold our usual buffet dinner on Saturday evening beginning at 6:30. A cash bar will be available at 6:00 and during dinner. Advance reservations are required for attending the dinner in order to facilitate planning. The buffet cost is \$21 per person, which is due with your meeting registration. **Please note that January 23, 2011 is the last date for any refunds for registration or dinner cancellations.**

Brian Patteson will offer an all-day pelagic trip on Friday, January 28 with a Sunday, January 30 weather date. Cost is \$150 per person with a limit of 20 people on the trip. Sign up early for this trip, as Brian will offer it to the general public after January 1, 2011. The departure point will be Hatteras or Wanchese depending on weather conditions. The departure location will be announced and communicated to those who have registered. On Brian's winter trip you may see Northern Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Red Phalarope, Great Skua, Black-legged Kittiwake, Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Dovekie among others. This time of year the Northern Gannets put on quite a show when on a school of fish, and they are also frequently close at hand for the chum provided, making for excellent photo opportunities.

Please send your \$150 per person payment (preferably by check) directly to Brian Patteson, P.O. Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943. For more information about Brian's trips, expected birds, and preparations see www.patteson.com. Brian can be reached at (252) 986-1363 or by e-mail at Brian@Patteson.com. Please remember to indicate on your CBC registration form that you plan to do the pelagic trip, even though Brian is handling the reservations.

In winter on the Outer Banks, there are lots of birds, but

fewer open restaurants than in the tourist season. The hotel is located close to fast food places, and we will provide information about some of your favorite seafood places open at that time of year in your registration package. If your Friday or Saturday field trips put you on Pea/Hatteras Island during the mid-day hours, we recommend you carry your lunch.

Registration packets will also contain directions to the locations of the field trips offered during the course of the weekend. Some local reference books are recommended. *The North Carolina Birding Trail - Coastal Plain Trail Guide* can be used to study up on the Outer Banks sites you will be visiting, as well as planning your trip to and from Kill Devil Hills. John Fussell's *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina* and Mike Tove's *Guide to the Off-shore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic* are standards for birding this area of North Carolina.

We are going to try something a little different at this CBC meeting. On Saturday afternoon there will be a team birding contest that we hope will be fun and a learning experience. Members with **all** levels of birding experience are encouraged to participate. Each team will be made up of different levels of birding ability, with points awarded for sightings accomplished by each member of the four-person team. This will be a great opportunity for birders that want to improve their skills to be teamed with the "experts", and good scores are dependent on how well the most experienced help the less experienced. As part of the registration process, when you sign up for the event you will indicate on the form your ability level. Teams will be assembled in advance of the meeting and posted at registration. Teams will be allowed to do a "shotgun" start at 1:30 p.m. with each team having to use one vehicle. Your team's strategy may be to start at North Pond and work south, or start in Alligator River and come east. Speeding tickets will result in disqualification! The team score card has to be turned in by 5:00 p.m. Jeff Lewis will be the chief competition judge and will have final say on all issues.

Attendees at the last winter meeting in Atlantic Beach were tested with some extreme weather. Even then, some of the more hardy souls were treated to some great ocean watching. Let's hope we have better weather this year, but come prepared for anything. Please direct any questions or concerns about this meeting to Skip Morgan (252) 216-6808 or tlmorgan@inteliport.com.

Winter Meeting Field Trip Schedule and Descriptions

Skip Morgan

Friday, January 28

Morning Half-Day Trips

- Trip 1 - Pea Island NWR, North and South Ponds - 7:15 AM
- Trip 2 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR - 6:45 AM
- Trip 3 - Roanoke Island - 7:30 AM
- Trip 4 - Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Points North - 7:30 AM
- Trip 5 - Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet - 7:15 AM

Afternoon Half-Day Trips

- Trip 6 - Pea Island NWR, North and South Ponds - 1:30 PM
- Trip 7 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR - 1:00 PM
- Trip 8 - Roanoke Island - 1:30 PM
- Trip 9 - Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Points North - 1:00 PM
- Trip 10 - Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet - 1:30 PM

All Day Trips

- Trip 11 - Pelagic aboard the Stormy Petrel II - approximately 6:00 AM
- Trip 12 - Mattamuskeet NWR - 7:00 AM
- Trip 13 - Pocosin Lakes NWR - 7:15 AM
- Trip 14 - Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island, Pea Island - 7:00 AM

Saturday, January 29

Morning Half-Day Trips

- Trip 15 - Pea Island NWR, North and South Ponds - 7:15 AM
- Trip 16 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR - 6:45 AM
- Trip 17 - Roanoke Island - 7:30 AM
- Trip 18 - Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Points North - 7:30 AM
- Trip 19 - Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet - 7:15 AM

Afternoon Half-Day Trips

- Trip 20 - Oregon Inlet/North Pond - 1:30 PM
- Trip 21 - Nags Head Ocean Watch - 1:00 PM
- Trip 22 - Roanoke Island - 1:30 PM
- Trip 23 - The first ever CBC Round Up - 1:30 PM

Sunday, January 30

Weather date for pelagic trip.

Bird your way back home. Results from the Saturday night species countdown and Round Up contest results may give you some ideas for your Sunday travels.



Trips 1, 6 & 15 - Pea Island NWR, North and South Ponds

Caravan down to the entrance area of South Pond where drivers will carefully park along the roadside. If you travel to this area in advance of the guide, you can not enter until they arrive. We will scan flocks of common birds hoping for such species as Eurasian Wigeon, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, American Bittern, and American White Pelican. In the grassy strips and in the shrub edges along the way, we may find a few sparrows and warblers. After leaving South Pond, we will visit nearby North Pond to continue our search. This area has seen quite a few rarities over the years, including Glaucous Gull, California Gull, Hudsonian Godwit, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Cave Swallow, and Brewer's

Blackbird, just to name a few. Anything is a possibility at Pea Island! If time permits, you may want to stop by Oregon Inlet or Bodie Island on the trip back. A spotting scope comes in quite handy in these areas. Even in January, mosquito protection may be advisable.

Trips 2, 7 & 16 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR

Plan for about a one hour drive to "P3" as it is known by the locals. Plan to look among the seven species of woodpeckers present for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search, we should see a good assortment of woodland and edge species, including kinglets, warblers, nuthatches, and sparrows. Red-shouldered Hawk is likely and Barred Owl and

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions (continued)

Bald Eagle are real possibilities. Learn more about P3 by visiting www.palmettopeartree.org. After birding P3 and on the way back to the beach, the group will drive through and bird Alligator River NWR searching primarily for raptors and sparrows, although many species will be possible, including waterfowl and shorebirds. This refuge may be the best place in the state to find Ash-throated Flycatcher. Black Bears, Bobcats and Red Wolves are a possibility, too.

Note: lots of birds but few restrooms in this part of the world, but they can be found (OBX Visitor's Center on Roanoke Island, service station at western end of Alligator River bridge, and porta-johns at entrance to Milltail Road in Alligator River NWR.)

Trips 3, 8, 17 & 22 - Roanoke Island

This trip will begin at the north end of the island where we will search the woodland edges for winter species such as Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow, and hope to turn up over-wintering warblers. Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers have all been seen in recent winters, as have Baltimore Oriole, Painted Bunting and Western Kingbird! Wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds should be present as well. After that, we will visit the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of saltmarsh species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rail. The on-site freshwater impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl for us to view, along with Belted Kingfisher and a raptor or two. Last we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village at the south end of the island and scan the surrounding sound and marina for gulls, loons, grebes, and diving ducks. Wear comfortable shoes because you are going to cover a lot of ground on this field trip.

Trips 4, 9 & 18 - Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Points North

This new offering will afford CBC members an introduction to this 2,600 acre site on the Currituck Sound. Mark Buckler, Director of the Sanctuary, will be the trip leader and guide. We will explore this former hunting mecca for waterfowl of our own, plus shorebirds, marsh birds and raptors – Bald Eagle is a dis-

ting possibility. Afterwards, we head north and bird around the Currituck Lighthouse and N.C. Center for Wildlife Education. A boardwalk will take us to the edge of Currituck Sound where we will scan for waders, shorebirds, terns and waterfowl. King Rails and other marsh birds are a possibility. The forest edge can be good for overwintering passerines as well. Time permitting, we may scan the nearby ocean for scoters, loons and grebes. If you have not ever birded this area of the Outer Banks, this field trip will provide an experience you will be able to use in your future trips to the Banks.

Trips 5, 10 & 19 - Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet

Caravan to the north end of Pea Island and bird around the Bonner Bridge and the rock groin. Species to look for include Great Cormorant, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Glaucous Gull, "Ipswich" Sparrow, Snow Bunting and much, much more. This is "hallowed ground" to birders and many rarities have shown up here over the years. You definitely want to stay alert on this trip! Next, travel across the bridge and stop at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center where we will scope for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. Common Eiders and Brant have been seen here, as well. Continue on to Bodie Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the new observation platform located behind the Bodie Island Lighthouse. Eurasian Wigeon and Cinnamon Teal have been seen here. The boardwalk that cuts through the marsh is good for rails and marsh wrens.

Trip 11 - Pelagic aboard the Stormy Petrel II

Departure from Hatteras or Wanchese depending on conditions. Captain Brian Patteson's trips aboard the Stormy Petrel II are very popular with birders from all over. It's a different world out there with very different and special birds. The trip is offered to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 CBC members. The back up date for this trip is Sunday, January 30. In the event of a cancellation due to weather, participants will receive a full refund. Please send your check payable to Brian Patteson, Inc. to Brian at P.O. Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943. Give him your contact information as well - email and phone numbers. Go to www.patteson.com for more information.

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions (continued)

Trip 12 - Mattamuskeet NWR

A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible at times. One of the best spots in the state for Golden Eagle, we will bird the Lake Landing area for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare, such as Cackling Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, or "Common" Teal. Or, should we think bigger – something like a Barnacle Goose or a Trumpeter Swan! Speaking of big, American White Pelicans have been seen here several times in recent winters, as well. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines. In just the past 3 winters the causeway has hosted at least 13 species of warblers, including Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Yellow Warbler and Nashville Warbler. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Baltimore Orioles are to be expected, and last winter an Ash-throated Flycatcher and Bell's Vireo turned up. A Black-headed Gull is present most years, too, usually seen near one of the culverts that pass under the road. Side trips on the way back to the beach may include a stop at Stumpy Point Bay and Alligator River NWR.

Trip 13 - Pocosin Lakes NWR

Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of Snow Geese in winter,. We will search through the white feathers for Cackling Geese, Ross's Geese, and Greater White-fronted Geese. We will also study the black-bird flocks with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles – this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include other waterfowl and farm field and edge species, such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. Lots and lots of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back.

Trip 14 - Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island, Pea Island

Local guides will rendezvous with the CBC party at the lighthouse parking lot. In four-wheel drive vehicles the convoy will cover the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach. We will sort through the gull flocks in search of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should

be common. Peregrine Falcon is often seen out here as well. We will scan the ocean for loons, grebes, scoters and other water birds, hoping for alcids or other rarities. Last winter an adult male Common Eider was seen here at the point! Black-headed and Little Gull are also possibilities. The salt pond usually hosts good populations of birds; Eared Grebe is seen here occasionally. Snow Buntings and Horned Larks are also a possibility, and a Sprague's Pipit was seen here once, not far from the salt pond. We recommend packing a lunch for this trip. Your leader will plan some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north. **Please write "4WD" on the upper right corner of your registration form if you have a four wheel drive vehicle and are willing to take passengers.**

Trip 20 - Oregon Inlet/North Pond

Start with a visit to the Oregon Inlet groin and old Coast Guard station followed by the local favorite birding spot - North Pond. Remember to check out the salt flats on the north end of North Pond. (See descriptions for trip 1 - North Pond and trip 5 - Oregon Inlet)

Trip 21 - Nags Head Ocean Watch

A scope is essential for this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter birds that feast on the bounty of the ocean. Your leader will select some premium locations from which to watch the action.

Trip 23 - The first ever CBC Round Up!

Basic rules (that may well be adjusted before the meeting) are:

- Four person teams are made up of different levels of birding ability
- Teams are made up by the CBC meeting planner and the chief judge
- Each team may use only one vehicle
- A "shotgun" start means the team picks where they begin
- The start time is 1:30 PM
- The *CBC Daily Field Check List* will be used as a scorecard
- One point per species per birder on the team, four points if all team members make the sighting

- All members of the team have to turn in their card to the chief judge at or before 5:00 PM
- Any ties will be broken by how early the card was turned in
- Speeding tickets or citations for entering a restricted area are grounds for disqualification
- No score cards accepted after 5:00 PM

Registration form note: *Birding Levels For the CBC Round Up Contest* - Please indicate your level when completing the registration form to sign up for "Trip 23".

Level 1: Recognizes most/all species in all plumages (breeding, winter, juvenile). Can identify chip notes and calls as well as songs. Knows species' habitat and behavior. Is familiar with the various venues in the target area and often leads field trips.

Level 2: Knows breeding and winter plumage of most species and can identify some juveniles. Can identify songs and most calls. Knows the habitat of most species and the more unique behaviors. Occasionally leads field trips.

Level 3: Knows breeding plumage of most species and can usually identify birds in non-breeding plum-

age with the help of a field guide. Has a general familiarity with the habitat of bird families (gulls, terns, waterfowl, warblers, woodpeckers, etc). Finds the bird's behavior not often helpful in identification.

Level 4: Still developing basic identification skills. Less experienced at identification of coastal birds. Enthusiastic, if not highly skilled, birder.

Birding To and From the Outer Banks

Your *NC Birding Trail - Coastal Plain Guide* is the best source of information on places to visit on the way to and from the Outer Banks. If you are traveling Routes 64/264 check out Mattamuskeet NWR (page 62), Swanquarter NWR (page 63) and Scuppernong River Boardwalk (page 58). Also check out the Bald Eagles in Roper at the Vernon James Research Station (not in the guide.) If you are traveling the 158/17 routes you might consider one of the Roanoke Group sites (page 42), Merchants Millpond State Park (page 28) and Mackay Island NWR (page 17.) Remember birds seen on the way to and from count for our meeting list!

Read The Chat and the Newsletter anywhere you have Internet access!

The most recent editions of the Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website. Older editions of The Chat are free for anyone to download, but the CBC Newsletter and the two most recent calendar years of The Chat are available only to CBC members. All CBC members will use the same username and password to access these publications. The username is "**member**" and the password is "**birdfun**".

This is a membership benefit, please don't share the password with non-members! The password will be changed from time to time, but can always be found in the most recent print edition of the Newsletter.

Go to <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/newsletter> to access the Newsletter, and <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat> to access The Chat.

Welcome New Members!	Christine Gibson Lake Junaluska, NC	Adams Hobart Wilmington, NC	Loris McCracken Sumter, SC	Deceased Member
John Barlow Springfield, PA	Gene Griffin Surf City, NC	Finch Hobart Wilmington, NC	Peggy McKoy Rembert, SC	Paul Rogers
Teri & Drew Carter Camden, SC	Jamie Harrelson Asheville, NC	Elizabeth Laban Charleston, SC	Dean & Vivian Sprehe Charlotte, NC	



Birder's Book Review

Steve Shultz



Birds of the West Indies

Norman Arlott

Paper 240 pages

Princeton University Press 2010

ISBN 978-0-691-14780-1

Recently, I was privileged to take a week-long cruise to the Caribbean. As a birder, this of course means the possibility of enjoying some island birds between snorkeling excursions and that difficult task of snoozing on the beach. In addition to a good pair of binoculars, I needed a book covering the birds of the West Indies. As it so happens, a newly published volume, *Birds of the West Indies* by Norman Arlott found its way into my luggage. I was excited to give this book a workout, as my old standby, *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies* by Herbert Raffaele et al. is a bit heavy to tote around. *Birds of the West Indies* by Arlott comes in a handy pocket size (5 x 7.5 inches and 240 pages), perfect for throwing in a day bag.

A part of the Princeton Illustrated Checklists series, the book is just that, a well-illustrated listing of the 550 birds seen in the West Indies, including vagrants. The artwork is superb, with 80 Sibley-esque color plates that are among the best renditions of birds that I have seen. Each species receives a short piece of text on the facing page that covers field notes, voice, habitat, and distribution. Range maps are not with the species accounts, but are included in a separate appendix. The book is not, and is not intended to be, a field guide. The text account for each species is quite limited, and the distribution information is rather basic, usually limited to which island(s) the species may inhabit. Bird names are listed in both the standard American and British forms, where they differ, along with the Latin names.

I generally don't take bird books into the field with me, so my book stayed aboard the *Freedom of the Seas* while I cavorted on each tropical beach or in each woodlot. Upon my return to the ship, I would check my sightings against the book to see if I made the correct identification, and to critique the plates against the recently seen birds. I was quite impressed, as noted earlier, at the quality of the plates. The Palmchat, Broad-billed Tody, and Black-crowned

Palm Tanager in Haiti would certainly agree that their renditions on the plates were excellent.

The Bananaquits in Haiti, Jamaica, and Grand Cayman, would be pleased to see that their respective races merit individual drawings showing the diversity in plumage that this species enjoys.

In most cases female plumages, where they differ significantly from males, are drawn separately, so the female Western Spindalis I noted in Cozumel could have been identified as such.

Overall I thought the book was quite useful in identifying and cataloguing the birds I enjoyed during my trip.

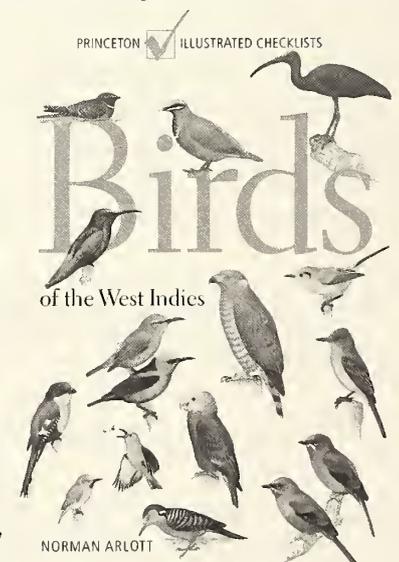
A first time visitor to the region might find some confusion in the fact that vagrant and common resident species are given the same attention. Only by noting the distribution does one see that the bird in question may have only been seen once or twice in the region.

My only other nitpicks are that while the book is in the Illustrated Checklists series, there is no checklist per se, but I was not really expecting or thought I needed one. The use of six separate colors to represent species distribution can be a little confusing until the reader gets used to the methodology.

Otherwise, I though the book was just what I needed to take along, and was a perfect size for folks who like to have a book in the field.

Hope you make it to the Caribbean soon, and when you do, that you will enjoy the diversity of the birdlife as much as I do!

Note: The ISBN for the Raffaele book is 0-691-08736-9, also by Princeton Univ. Press



CBC Winter Meeting Registration Form

4WD?

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening phone _____

Email _____

Winter 2011 Meeting 1/27-1/30

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-member) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Saturday Buffet Dinner (each) _____ x \$21.00 = \$ _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	Level:

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

*To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above. If you chose trip #23, please put your "level" in the lower right box.

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs \$30.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to: CBC, 353 Montabello, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Please note that Sunday January 23, 2011 is the last date for any refunds for registration or dinner cancellations. Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary (contact info is on the back page of this newsletter). If you have to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

Important Notice:

South Pond on Pea Island NWR is usually off-limits to everyone except National Wildlife Refuge personnel. We are privileged to make several visits to South Pond as guests of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This invitation is dependent upon our working closely with the FWS to use specific procedures and guides.

Going into South Pond at any other time is strictly forbidden. This prohibition includes the Saturday afternoon Round Up contest.

If you are birding on your own, please be mindful of the American Birding Association's Principles of Birding Ethics. Please do not visit Hatteras Cape Point on Friday morning until after our CBC group scheduled trip has completed their tour. No tour group is planned for Saturday morning.

When visiting Hatteras Island, especially the Buxton area, you will likely sense the negative sentiment resulting from the ongoing controversy surrounding the measures taken to protect breeding birds and turtles. Your guides will be assisted by local birders who are experienced with the situation and are prepared to deal with whatever comes up.

Carolina Bird Club Member Survey

Hopefully the Carolina Bird Club is meeting and exceeding your expectations as a valued member. The Club strives to offer quality seasonal meetings, local and out-of-state field trips, and other opportunities to enjoy birdlife, travel, and socialize with members. This survey is intended to identify some of the things that we are doing well, and highlight areas that could be improved. If you are registering for the winter meeting, please consider sharing your thoughts and include this page with your registration form. If you are not registering, we would still like to hear from you! Please consider submitting this completed survey to the address on the meeting registration form. Yes, it will cost a stamp, but it's good karma, and your input is greatly appreciated!

What do you value the most about Club membership? (some items you may consider include The Chat, The Newsletter, website, meetings, field trip offerings, etc.)

What is the most important factor in your choice to attend a seasonal meeting, or if you do not attend regularly, what keeps you from attending? (some items you may consider include location, dates, days of the week, field trip offerings, etc.)

What offerings would you like to see that are not currently made available by the Club?

Do you feel that it is easy for Club members to have a voice in the operation of the organization?

Do you prefer to receive information from the Club electronically, via the website or e-mail, or by mail through The Newsletter and The Chat?

Do you have an interest in serving on the Executive Committee? The Club's Executive Committee is made up of interested volunteers from across the Carolinas, and a diversity in background, geographical location, and age is appreciated. If you would be interested in finding out more about open or future positions on the Committee, please provide a daytime phone number and/or an e-mail address in order to receive more information.

Carolina Christmas Bird Counts

The 111th edition of the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count is nearly upon us! Spanning the three week period from Tuesday, December 14, 2010 to Wednesday, January 5, 2011, the Count is a great opportunity for birders, novices and experts, travelers and "back yarders", to participate in one of the longest running and most extensive "citizen science" projects in the world.

The Count was started by ornithologist Frank Chapman as a conservation-related alternative to the traditional "side hunt" that occurred on Christmas Day. Chapman's challenge was to see how many birds could be counted in one day. That first count was held in twenty-five locations and included a whopping twenty-seven participants. The number of species tallied? Around ninety. Today we can expect to see results from over 2,100 count circles and more than 50,000 participants. Individual count circles in favorable locations may record in excess of two hundred species.

To find out more about how you can participate in a Christmas Bird Count, search for a count circle you are interested in, and contact the Count's coordinator. The Carolina Bird Club website has information on many of the counts in North and South Carolina, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org and navigate to the Christmas Bird Count link on the left side. For more information about the Count, as well as locations outside the Carolinas, visit the Audubon Society's website at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

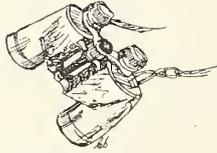


Hope Returns

Back in October 2009 we told you about a very special Whimbrel named "Hope". Fitted with a satellite transmitter on May 19, 2009 while staging on the Delmarva Peninsula, Hope continued north to summer in the Arctic. Hope then flew south for the winter, spending the colder months of the 2009-2010 winter in balmy St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands before returning to the far north, via the Delmarva once again, for another summer. On August 26 of this year, Hope was again spotted at Great Pond on St. Croix, having just completed a long over-water journey to her wintering grounds. Hope has now been tracked for over 26,000 miles and four migrations. We wish many more trips between the Caribbean and the Arctic for Hope! Funding for this effort was provided by The Nature Conservancy, the Center for Conservation Biology, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Wood Stork ESA Status Under Review

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in late September that it intends to review the status of the Wood Stork with respect to the Endangered Species Act. The Wood Stork is currently classified as "endangered" under the Act. The review was prompted by a petition on behalf of the Florida Home Builders Association. The Service is currently reviewing available scientific data and expects to make one of the following recommendations: make no change to the status, leaving the Wood Stork as "endangered"; reclassify the Wood Stork as "threatened" instead of "endangered"; or suggest that while reclassification to "threatened" is warranted, the actual declassification is deferred pending completion of other, higher priority, tasks. The species was listed as "endangered" under the ESA on February 28, 1984. Approximately 8,000 nesting pairs are thought to exist in the United States population, up from a nadir of approximately 5,000 pairs in the late 1970s, but significantly lower than the 20,000 pairs estimated in the 1930s. The Wood Stork is a breeding and non-breeding resident in both North and South Carolina. To follow this developing story, visit the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>.



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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Blowing Rock, NC May 6-8, 2011
 Beaufort, SC Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2011

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 Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February,
 April, June, August, and October.

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CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$25; Associate (in household with individual), \$5; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$400; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues of \$25 include \$4 for a subscription to *CBC Newsletter* and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$2.50, 25@\$6, 50@\$11.75, 75@\$17.75, and 100@\$23.50. Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612. Copyright © 2010.

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